

or five centuries succeeding this important event a period of greatest unrest existed. The five great nations of Europe evolving themselves out of chaotic materials into those social and political institutions, which constitute the machinery of the Middle Ages afforded little that was congenial for intellectual development. Once, however, languages formed, boundaries fixed, and methods of government tried, the "divine discontent" of the thinker for higher, nobler, and more rational possibilities manifested itself, first in the twelfth century which "saw a remarkable revival of interest in learning, almost worthy of the name of Renaissance in itself had it been more fruitful of results. In the bold speculations of Abelard it almost seemed as if Reason were about to re-assert its claims in opposition to Authority."

Backward as the progress of medicine had been it in some measure shared in this intellectual movement.

But at last the awakening came. "Very early in the fourteenth century Dante sang the swan song of the Middle Ages, and even as he sang it the world was turning restlessly in its sleep; the long slumber was disturbed by broken fragments of dream, gleams of light, echoes of long silent voices calling to it to rise in all the vigor of adolescence, to shake off, like Samson, the shackles that had bound it, to adventure forth in the glorious May morning of time, when all creation lay radiant and mysterious before the eyes of the newly awakened. It was a time of infinite possibilities, to which we may look back not without wistfulness—a time when new discoveries of man's latent powers and the beauty and wonder of the world around him were every day to be made, when new interests and new adventures beckoned to him on every side. We cannot put any date to this awakening; no abruptness marks the initiative of movements so great. We only know that the world slept, and that the world was awake. The first stirrings were shown in the growing discontent which would not be repressed in the brave words of Wiclif and Huss, and in the paintings of Giotto."

This was Europe's grand age, and the most significant epoch of human growth. To this day, as Taine says, we live from its sap, we only carry on its pressures and efforts.

Vesalius and Paré, both children of the Renaissance, casting tradition aside, marched on, resolved to see with their own eyes. Freed from the tyranny of mere theories and speculation, they turned to experience, to the world of concrete impressions, to things as they may be seen, heard and felt. Vesalius, concerned with anatomic researches made possible that development of surgery which in the hands of Hunter, Jean Louis Petit, Sir Ashley Cooper, Desault and others yielded such practical results. Paré although no great scientist, was a master clinician who brought to bear upon his task great common sense. He was the father of the art of surgery which remained essentially unchanged until two hundred and fifty-six years after his death or until the introduction of anesthetics.

Among the essays dealing with post Renaissance

medicine the two on Albrecht von Haller and John Hunter recall much that is significant and interesting. Of the influence of Haller on surgery too little has been said. It was he who first grasped its wide significance and showed that it is, as Mumford says, far more than a craft. "He brought to bear upon it a profound knowledge of anatomy, a keen-eyed devotion to physiology, an enthusiasm for pathologic anatomy. He showed the absurdity of the medieval custom which had divorced surgery from medicine and a liberal education, depriving it of the services of distinguished men and cultivated minds. By his example he did even more than by his preaching; he became a great experimental physiologist; through such endeavors he made possible the practical investigation of natural processes and through such investigations it has come about that numberless procedures of to-day are feasible and life-saving."

In forming an estimate of Hunter's work and of the influence which his labors have had on the improvement of surgery we are at once struck by the boldness and independence which he displayed in the pursuit of truth. To enumerate the various practical amendments of which he was the immediate author would scarcely do him justice. His claims, as Drewry Ottley says, are of a far higher nature. He, like Haller, taught us to bring the light of physiology "to bear upon the practice of our art, and by his writings, his teachings and his example, stimulated the numerous able followers to pursue the way he pointed out."

With the trail blazed by these epoch-makers of medicine the march of surgery may be partly traced in these essays through those less immediate products of the Renaissance—Sir Ashley Cooper, Sir Benjamin Brodie, and others to Sir Joseph Lister and modern surgery. If it should be suggested that much has been left unsaid in these delightful biographies and that the essays are far from exhausting the qualities of their subjects, we shall put the author under the protection of the genial Lafontaine, who says in the epilogue to the Contes:

"Bornons ici cette carrière;
Les longs contes me font peur;
Loin d'épuiser une matière,
On n'en doit prendre que la fleur."

A. J. L.

Confessio Medici. By the Writer of "The Young People." The Macmillan Company, New York.

That the latent literary faculty amongst medical men will leap into active existence under proper conditions, is evidenced by the appearance of this book by an anonymous author. The writer is evidently a man who, in the leisure of retirement, after a long and active medical career, has turned his attention to literature. The book consists of a number of essays variously designated "Vocation," "Hospital Life," "The Discipline of Practice," "The Spirit of Practice," "Retirement," etc. For felicity of phrase and leisurely meanderings about in the by-ways of literature ancient and modern, for its store of reminiscences culled from a full and rich medical experience, its flashes of quaint and unexpected humor and deep insight into human nature, its sympathy with and comprehension of the trials which beset the

pathway especially of the young practitioner, its sound advice and earnest plea for the preservation of the medical ideal, it is stamped as one of unusual literary value and human interest. Throughout, so strongly is it imbued with the personality of the author and so happily expressed are the thoughts and emotions which practice calls into being in all of us, that after perusing it, one puts it down feeling as though one had met an old and valued friend.

Though the book is meant mainly for the young man, every physician young and old should read it. They will be well repaid for their trouble, for it will be found a source of instruction, inspiration and delight.

K. I. L.

Essentials of Laboratory Diagnosis. Designed for Students and Practitioners. By Francis Ashley Faught, M. D., Director of the Laboratory of the Department of Clinical Medicine, and Assistant to the Professor of Clinical Medicine, Medico-Chirurgical College, etc., etc. Philadelphia, Pa. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers. 1909.

This manual contains a concise, practical account of the various laboratory methods commonly employed by the general practitioner. Each method is clearly described so that no difficulty ought to be experienced in carrying out the tests. There is a complete absence of all superfluous data, unnecessary detail, and of cumbersome methods many of which are too involved to be within the reach of the majority of practicing physicians. In every respect the work is a credit to the author and invaluable to those who from want of time or training cannot go into the matter more fully.

A. J. L.

Text Book of Hygiene. By George H. Rohe, M. D., Late Professor of Therapeutics, Hygiene, and Mental Diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, etc., and Albert Robin, M. D., Professor of Pathology, Bacteriology and Hygiene, Medical Department Temple University, and Philadelphia Dental College, etc. Fourth Revised and Enlarged Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1908.

Since the appearance of the third edition of this deservedly popular work important advances have been made in hygiene and sanitary science which have made it imperative to revise parts in accord with modern scientific conceptions of the subject. The original aim of the senior editor to present a clear account of the principles and practice of preventive medicine has in this edition been maintained. The most important changes have been made in that portion of the text relating to the causation and prevention of infectious diseases—lines along which notable advances have been made in recent years. The authors have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of several contributors eminent in their lines of special study. Among these are Surgeon-General Walter Wyman of the U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service who has revised the chapter on Quarantine; Dr. Francis W. Upshur of the University College of Medicine, Richmond, Va., who prepared the articles on School Hygiene, Clothing and Personal Hygiene; Surgeon-Major Walter D. McCaw of the Army Service who entirely rewrote the section on Military and Camp Hygiene; and Surgeon-Major Henry G. Beyer of the U. S. Army and Navy Medical School who is responsible for the part entitled Naval Hygiene.

A. J. L.

Hand-Book of Obstetrics. By R. Cadwallader, A. M., M. D., Assistant in Obstetrics, University of California, Medical Department. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. 1908.

While some may question the wisdom of writing a book such as this, none will withhold praise for

the excellent manner in which the author has accomplished his task. Here we have a concise statement of obstetrical science and art well suited to the needs of students and those general practitioners who may desire a short account of the subject from a modern standpoint. Well arranged, written in an unusually clear and direct style, profusely illustrated, the volume leaves little to be desired although many will dissent from statements made or methods advocated by the author. Thus in the list of articles composing the physician's kit we would suggest replacing the oil-cloth by a Kelly pad; under the section entitled triplets a misstatement (probably a proofreader's error) is made concerning their frequency. Triplets do not occur about once in 89 times but according to the statistics of G. Veit about once in 7910 pregnancies.

In the section on Resuscitation of the Child, twelve different methods are enumerated including Laborde's which is misspelled Labarde's, but no mention is made of the recent work of Professor Schafer of the University of Edinburgh, in connection with this matter of artificial respiration. The subject of lacerations of the perineum is admirably handled but we cannot agree with the statement that tears involving the rectum should never be immediately repaired; most of us engaged in obstetrical work have seen brilliant results follow immediate repair if the tissues are not very edematous or bruised.

That manual extraction of the placenta is to be avoided if possible is unquestioned but that this "is one of the most dangerous of all obstetrical manoeuvres" has not been the experience of clean obstetricians. Other exceptions might be mentioned but after all they in no wise affect our judgment of the merits of this hand-book in which "clean hands and a pure heart" meet on common ground.

A. J. L.

Conservative Gynecology and Electro-Therapeutics.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women and Their Treatment by Electricity. By G. Betton Massey, M. D., Attending Surgeon to the American Oncologic Hospital, Philadelphia; Fellow and Ex-President of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association; etc. Sixth Revised Edition, 462 pages. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. 1909.

When the early publications of Tripier appeared in the middle of the last century the possibilities of electro-therapeutics in gynecological practice were scarcely realized; it remained for others, notably Apostoli, to show its applications in this connection. Nevertheless, while we are indebted to those who have investigated the subject for much suggestive and valuable information it is hardly probable that the matter has assumed proportions which warrant the publication of a work the size of this volume. It is incredible that anyone should have the temerity to tax the patience of the reader with so much language on a subject which has scarcely evolved beyond the stage of early impressions. Indeed, we suspect that here we have another glaring example of the modern, highly developed practice of "padding," systematically and consistently employed to the very end, even to the series of grotesque illustrations.

In this respect alone the usefulness of the book has been very seriously impaired but after all that is merely a matter of personal inconvenience which time and enterprise may overcome. Stripped of much verbiage and irrelevant material golden truths may be gleaned by the expert whose trained scent will enable him to disregard a mass of assumptions not justified by experience. To be enthusiastic about something is one thing; to judge it in terms of demonstrated facts is quite another. In enthusiasm for his pet therapeutic formula and panacea for the pelvic ills of woman the author is surely not lack-